



Focus

Emission Check Program

New Contract Improvements

Background

The motor vehicle Emission Check Program helps reduce air pollution from motor vehicles by identifying the most polluting vehicles and requiring their repair. This is important because motor vehicles are Washington's largest source of air pollution. The Emission Check Program is required by law in areas where it is needed to prevent violations of federal health-based standards for motor vehicle-related air pollution. In Washington, it is required in urban areas of Clark, King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Spokane counties.

How is emission testing changing?

A new, 10-year contract to operate emission testing stations in Washington begins in July 2002. The new testing contractor is Agbar Technologies, Inc. of Chicago, who will begin conducting the tests on July 1, 2002. The previous contractor was Envirotest Systems, Inc.

Five-to-25-year-old vehicles registered in test areas will continue to need emission checks every two years. The test fee will remain \$15.

Changes starting in July 2002 are:

- Test stations will accept checks and credit cards, ending a 20-year cash-only policy.
- Test stations will be open Monday through Saturday. The tentative new schedule is 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays, and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturdays. Current hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.
- Most 1996 and newer gasoline cars and light-duty trucks will receive a "plug-in" test instead of a tailpipe check. The lane operator will connect a data cable to the vehicle's computer to download information on emission-related engine conditions. This test can detect deteriorating emission control equipment that, if not repaired, will result in high emissions.
- Puget Sound area tests will be upgraded to the dynamometer tests used in Vancouver and Spokane. With dynamometer testing, the lane operator "drives" the vehicle on floor rollers to simulate on-road acceleration. Heavy-duty and four-wheel-drive vehicles won't use this test.
- Diesel cars and light-duty trucks will be tested on dynamometers. The current "snap-acceleration" test will still be used on heavy-duty diesels.

- Gas cap leak checks, currently required only in Clark County, will expand to the Spokane and Puget Sound areas. Worn seals on gas caps allow fuel to leak into the air even when the vehicle isn't running. Leaky gas caps also keep other parts of the evaporative emission control system from working. Vehicles without a gas cap or with a leaky cap will not be able to pass the test.
- There will be one new test station in Spokane County, and four existing stations will close in King and Pierce counties. Here is a list of test stations as of July 2002:

Clark County		Snohomish County	
W. Vancouver 14110 NW 3 rd Court 360-574-3731	E. Vancouver 1121 NE 136 th Ave. 360-254-2173	Everett 1505 112 th St. SW 425-347-5711	Lynnwood 19726 64 th Ave. W 425-771-7614
King County		Marysville 117 Beach Ave. 360-658-1137	
Auburn 3002 "A" St. SE 253-939-1225	Bellevue 15313 SE 37 th St. 425-644-1803		
North Seattle 12040 Aurora Ave. N 206-362-5173	Redmond 18610 NE 67 th Court 425-882-3317	Stations closing as of July 2002:	
Renton 805 SW 10 th St. 425-228-6453	South Seattle 3820 6 th Ave. S 206-624-1254	King County	
		Des Moines 22406 Pacific Hwy. S	Kent 407 Washington Ave. N
		Kirkland 12415 132 nd Ave. NE	
Pierce County		Pierce County	
Fife 4912 Pacific Hwy. E 253-926-3277	Puyallup 10302 122 nd St. E 253-848-6399	Tacoma 3107 S. Pine St.	
Lakewood 3003 107 th St. S 253-581-5243		Spokane County	
(New) Spokane Valley 16309 E. Marietta 509-535-1326	Gonzaga Area N. 920 Hamilton St. 509-482-7724	*Spokane Valley S. 211 Howe Road	
		*The closing of this station may be delayed if the new Spokane Valley station (see column at left) is not ready by July 1, 2002.	

If your vehicle fails an emission check

If your vehicle fails its emission check, test station staff will provide you a packet of information explaining what to do.

For more information

Clark and Pierce Counties:	1-800-453-4951
King and Snohomish Counties:	(425) 649-7021 or 1-800-272-3780
Spokane County:	(509) 456-4454 (Ask for Emission Check staff on call)

If you require this document in alternative format, please call Judy Beitel at (360) 407-6878 (voice) or (360) 407-6006 (TDD only).